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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,214	01/04/2002	W. Martin Belef	1001.1424101	2008
28075	7590	03/08/2006		
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 800 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420			EXAMINER TRUONG, KEVIN THAO	
			ART UNIT 3731	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/16/2006 has been entered.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1-6 and 8-28, and 37-65 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S.

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Patent No. 6,652,505. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the relatively subject matter claimed in the instant application. For example: "elongated tubular member (50) having first opening and second opening (61) proximal to the first opening (at distal end of tubular member (50)); a guidewire (30) passes through the first opening, through the lumen (51) of the tubular member (50), and through the second opening (61); and a support wire (10) with filter (22) mounted on its distal end, extending through the lumen (51) of tubular member (50)", which would have been obvious in view of the relatively subject matter of the patent claims.

4. Claims 1-6 and 8-28, and 37-65 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-31 of U.S.

Patent No. 6,142,987. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the relatively subject matter claimed in the instant application. For example: "elongated tubular member (50) having first opening and second opening (61) proximal to the first opening (at distal end of tubular member (50)); a guidewire (30) passes through the first opening, through the lumen (51) of the tubular member (50), and through the second opening (61); and a support wire (10) with filter (22) mounted on its distal end, extending through the lumen (51) of tubular member (50)", which would have been obvious in view of the relatively subject matter of the patent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-6 and 8-28, and 37-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsugita (U.S. 6,142,987).

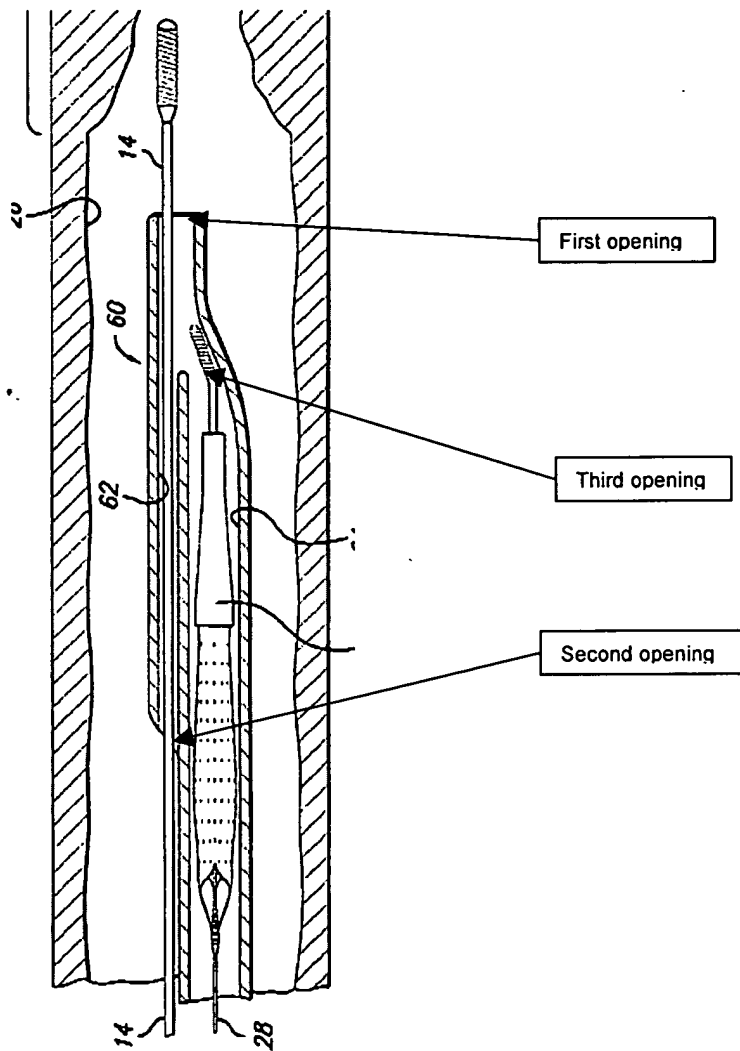
The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

6. Tsugita disclosed the claimed invention in figures 1A-1J (especially, figure 1I) discloses, an elongated tubular member (50) having first opening and second opening (61) proximal to the first opening (at distal end of tubular member (50)); a guidewire (30) passes through the first opening, through the lumen (51) of the tubular member (50), and through the second opening (61); and a support wire (10) with filter (22) mounted on its distal end, extending through the lumen (51) of tubular member (50).

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2. Claims 1-6, 8-28, and 37-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Boyle et al. (U.S. 6,537,294).

Note in figures 7 and 8, an elongate tubular member (60) having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen (62,64) therebetween; wherein the elongate member (60) having first opening (as shown below) from the lumen (62) at the distal end of the tubular member (60) and second opening (as shown below) from the lumen (62), in which considered proximal to the distal end of the tubular member (60), wherein the openings (as shown below) defining points at which the lumen (64) opens to an environment surrounding the tubular member (60) the first opening (as shown below) having a diameter at least as great as the first outer diameter of the medical device; an expandable filter (12) mounted on the distal end of the support wire (28); wherein a guide wire (14) adapted to pass through said first and second openings; and furthermore, wherein the support wire (28) adapted to pass through third opening. Note. The lumen (62,64) of Boyle et al is considered to be one lumen and not two lumens (according to applicant's remarks filed 02/16/2006)



Response to Arguments

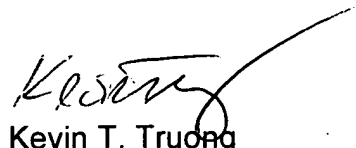
7. Applicant's arguments filed 02/16/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 10, 25, and 37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin T. Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-4705. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM..

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kevin T. Truong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3731

ktt